ORCAWALE 2001: Weekly Report for 10/25/01 to 10/31/01

Bob Pitman

Two days at sea this week before going into Astoria, Oregon, for what was to be a brief in-port (in Saturday; out Sunday). Instead, our port generator went on holiday. After one day for determining that it couldn't be mended in any reasonable amount of time (several days to two weeks), we decided to limp out on one generator and an emergency unit. But by then the weather had built up and was blocking our exit; so we sat tied to the dock two more days waiting for it to blow over. We will try once again on Thursday morning. Our thoroughbred Jordan has become an old gray mare; with 0% financing available everywhere now, maybe we should consider trading her in on a newer, racier model.

	Trackline Avg					
Date	Time Lat	Long		Miles		Beauf
102501	0759 N43:54.60	W127:31.02		82.2nmi	3	3.9
	1748 N45:15.57	W126:56.13				
102601	0756 N44:22.60	W125:20.78		75.7nmi		4.1
	1755 N44:35.43	W124:21.42				
Code	Species		Tot#			
22	Pacific white-sided dolphin		1			
27	northern right whale dolphin		1			
40	harbor porpoise		1			
44	Dall's porpoise		3			
71	minke whale		1			

TOTAL 7

Biopsy (Juan Carlos Salinas and Erin LaBrecque) Photo-ID (Todd Chander, Leigh Torres and Laura Morse)

Species	Biopsy #Biopsies (this week)	Cumulative Total	Photo #ID-Photos (this week)	Cumulative
Total				
Physeter macrocephalus	0	10	0	22
Balaenoptera musculus	0	10	0	16
Balaenoptera physalus	0	11	0	18
Megaptera novaeangliae	0	15	0	22
Delphinus delphis	0	70	0	16
Grampus griseus	0	1	0	1
Lagenorhyncus obliquidens	0	8	0	0
Lissodelphis borealis	0	16	0	0
Phocoenoides dalli	0	9	0	0
Orcinus orca	0	3	0 .	19
Eschrictius robustus	0	3	0	7
Stenella coeruleoalba	0	0	0	1
Tursiops truncatus	0	3	0	0
Ziphius cavirostris	0	1	0	1
Total	0	160	0	122

Oceanography (Candice Hall)

Day	#CTDs	#XBTs	#Bongos Notes
25 October	1	3	1
26 October	1	1	1

Seabirds (Michael Force and Cornelia Oedekoven)

Leg 4 concluded in a grand finale on Friday with one of the busiest, and certainly the most diverse, day of the cruise. In addition to numerous Northern Fulmars, gulls and Sooty Shearwaters, we added 6 new species for the cruise: Short-tailed and Flesh-footed Shearwater, Ancient and Marbled Murrelet, and Bonaparte's and Mew Gulls. In total, we saw about 30 species including 5 species of shearwaters, 6 alcids, and 8 gulls. Without giving away too much, it is obvious that we were in productive shelf waters, just skirting past the northern edge of Hecate Bank and finishing off on Stonewall Bank, both popular with birds and fish.

Acoustics (Shannon Rankin and Julie Oswald) Grim - two days yielded "three little peeps" recorded.